

# SAFETY MESSAGE

Personal Safety is our #1 priority



## **Mold,** Compiled by USDA-APHIS-CCEP-Bartow

Mold grows everywhere, but is encouraged by warm and humid conditions or flooding. All of us are exposed to mold spores both outside and inside. Indoors, mold seems likely to grow and become a problem where there is water damage, high humidity, or dampness. Some molds can produce toxic substances called mycotoxins. High or chronic airborne exposure to molds is typically associated with certain occupations like agricultural work and may cause health problems. “Black mold” is associated with heavy water damage. Certain individuals may have allergic reactions similar to common pollen allergies when exposed to mold. Flu-like symptoms, sinus conditions, and skin rash may occur. Asthma may be aggravated. Those individuals with weakened immune systems or who have allergies should consult a doctor if they are concerned about mold exposure.

If you see or smell mold in your home, you must identify and repair the moisture sources that are causing the mold growth. Use detergent and water to wash mold off hard surfaces. Porous materials that become moldy should be replaced. If you do not see mold growth, but notice a musty odor, mold may be growing behind water-damaged materials such as walls, carpeting or wallpaper. Eye protection and a dust mask should be worn when cleaning mold.

### **Reference:**

\*Information taken from the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

### **More detailed information can be obtained from sources such as:**

- \*State or Local Department of Health
- \*Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): [www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq)
- \*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [www.cdc.gov/nceh/asthma/factsheets/molds.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/asthma/factsheets/molds.htm)
- \*EPA and FEMA Flood Clean-up Guidelines: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/flood.html>
- \* [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)